



Volume 3, Issue 1, February 2010



COME OUT TO THE CLAN LESLIE GATHERING AND MEET YOUR NEW CHIEFTAIN, DAVID LESLIE WHITE FROM FORT WORTH TEXAS.

2010 CLAN LESLIE BIENNIAL GATHERING, LOCH NORMAN

The 2010 Clan Leslie Biennial Gathering will be held at the Rural Hill Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games on April 16, 17 and 18, 2010 in Huntersville (Charlotte), North Carolina. The Clan Leslie will be the Honored Clan at the 2010 Festival and the Honourable Alexander Leslie, Clan Chief will be leading the Leslie parade. See <http://www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net/honoredclan.asp> for details of Leslies as the Honoured Clan. This looks like an enjoyable Scottish event and you do not even have to travel to Scotland.

The Drury Hotel at 6920 Northlake Mall Drive, Charlotte, NC 28216 has rooms set aside for Clan Leslie. Contact them at 704-599-8882 or <https://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx> to confirm your hotel reservations. Deluxe rooms are \$65.00 a night and the two room suites will be \$104.99 a night. When you contact them be sure to use the group code **2069424** to get the group rates. **The registration form attached as the last page gives details of tickets.**

THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER LESLIE, CHIEF OF THE CLAN LESLIE



The day before the Gathering there was a Clan Convention which was attended by William Leslie, the new Commissioner, and I. Its mission was to discuss and form a plan to address various Scottish issues. Two main ones were 'Clans and Tourism' and 'the role of the Clan in the 21st Century' – how to engage the next generation, something that is close to my heart.

The outcome is that there is now a real possibility that something will happen that has never happened before – the Clans will be united in a common goal.

In order for Clan based tourism to succeed in the ways that we want it to we need to have a body that represents all its interests with the Scottish (and other) Governments. If we do this, the overall effect will be better funding and awareness for this effort. At the moment it is almost impossible to get funding for clan based activities unless you belong to one of the huge clans.

We also need to have a group that can address the huge issue of youngsters becoming uninterested in 'Scotland' – we need to make it into a community, a social network and a cool 'place' of which to belong.

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs has a role and it may take shape as the body that represents the clans and provides the platform for the discussion of the issues. It makes sense that it should adopt this role. For my own part I am keen to support it and hope to take on a role of some kind within the newly energised Council. Time, hopefully not too much of it, will tell.

So, against the backdrop of a great, fun and enthusiastic Gathering there was serious talking going on and goals were being defined. I will keep you up to date with the progress.

Alexander Leslie, Chief of Clan Leslie

CLAN LESLIE GATHERING, LOCH NORMAN, APRIL 16-18, 2010

A portion of the Clan Chief's message from the October 2009 *Grip Fast*, is repeated above to impress on the Clan that big new things are coming from Scotland. I was privileged to attend the Clan Convention with the Clan Chief in 2009 in the spectacular Scottish Parliament building. I clearly understood that the Clan Chiefs and the Scottish Government were soon going to announce new plans to enhance our efforts to celebrate our Scottish heritage. It also became clear to me that it was important for the Clan Chiefs to be able to count on the Clan Members outside of Scotland and especially in the USA and Canada. I hope that many of our members will take the opportunity to attend the Clan Leslie Gathering and bring their children to meet the Clan Chief and stir in them their fascinating journey into investigating their Scottish heritage. The Loch Norman Games are for families. Check out their fantastic web site above. Remember, Leslies are the Honoured Clan.

William Leslie, Commissioner for North America

SAN ANTONIO HIGHLAND GAMES, MARCH 26-27, 2010

Frank and Lynne Leslie will host a CLSI tent at the San Antonio Highland Games March 26-27. The hours are 9 AM to 8 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 6 PM on Sunday.

The San Antonio Highland Games are held at the Helotes Festival Grounds, 12210 Leslie Road, Helotes, Texas. When coming into San Antonio, take Loop 1604 west until you come to Bandera Road (Route 16). Exit onto Bandera Road and travel northwest toward Helotes for about a mile. Turn left on Leslie Road and you will see the event site.

This is a delightful location, and the San Antonio area has an outstanding number of interesting places to visit. The website for this event is www.sahga.org

David Leslie White

NEW YORK TARTAN DAY, APRIL 10, 2010

Clan Leslie Society International is invited to join the National New York Tartan Day Committee on April 10, 2010, in celebration of Tartan Day and the many contributions that Scots and Scottish-Americans have made to America and to the world. The New York Tartan Day Parade is one of the highlights of the weeklong celebration.

This year's parade is to be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 15th, on Sixth Avenue, New York City, starting at 45th Street.

As a fun addition to the pipers and clan members, the New York Tartan Army will be carrying the World's longest Caber, which once stood in Glasgow's George Square as a 60 foot tall Christmas tree. To register to march and to learn more about Tartan week and the parade, please go to www.tartanweek.com

If you have any questions, please reply to info@tartanweek.com or call 212-980-0844

Rebecca Chase Dobias, Sec/Registrar, CLSI

LINDA FLOWERS, TOURING SIGNIFICANT LESLIE SITES IN SCOTLAND, 2009



When my friend and I decided to make the trip to Scotland to attend the Gathering 2009, my goal was to visit as many Leslie sites as possible. Dunfermline Abbey can trace its roots back to 1070. King Malcolm III married Queen Margaret in a church in Dunfermline and she like the place so much she set up a religious community, bringing Benedictine monks to create the Abbey. Queen Margaret is buried here as is Robert the Bruce. You will remember from your Leslie history that Bartholomew, our founder, started his journey to Aberdeenshire from this town. A good website for the history of Dunfermline Abbey is:

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/dunfermline/abbeypalace/index.html>



Rob Roy's grave is located at Balquhidder Church. Rob Roy was the famous Scottish folk hero and outlaw portrayed by Liam Neeson in the movie Rob Roy. Sir Walter Scott and William Wordsworth both wrote about Rob Roy. Rob Roy was also known as the Scottish Robin Hood. He and his father joined the Jacobite rising and were successful in early battles. Eventually Rob's father was taken to jail and held for treason for two years. Rob Roy borrowed money to buy cattle but defaulted on his loan and was branded an outlaw. Note the epitaph, "McGregor Despite Them."



William Wallace was immortalized by Mel Gibson in the movie Braveheart. For centuries after its publication, Blind Harry's 15th-century epic poem, 'The Wallace', was the second most popular book in Scotland after the Bible. In May 1297 Wallace slew William Heselrig, the English Sheriff of Lanark. Soon his rising gained momentum, as men 'oppressed by the burden of servitude under the intolerable rule of English domination' joined him 'like a swarm of bees'. On September 11, he achieved a stunning victory over the English at Stirling Bridge. Wallace was knighted and made Guardian of Scotland. He continued his battles

against the English until August 3, 1305 when he was captured near Glasgow. He was executed as a traitor. The Wallace Monument is in Stirling.

Linda Flowers, Treasurer

RECORDS OF EMIGRANTS FROM ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND TO NORTH CAROLINA 1774 – 1775

Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Historical Commission, Dan G. Moody, ©1989

Pursuant to a letter from John Robinson, secretary of the Treasury, December 8, 1773, custom officials in England and Scotland supplied lists of persons who took passage on ships leaving Great Britain during the years 1773-1776, giving names, ages, quality, occupation, employment, former residence, reasons for emigrating, and the name of the ship and master. These records, somewhat incomplete, are now preserved in the Public Record Office of Great Britain under the classification Treasury Class 47, Bundles 9-12, and contain many thousands of names and important information of the population movement. They have been printed in part in The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (1908 – 1911).

The largest group consisted of indentured servants bound for New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The emigration practically ceased after September 1775. The movement from Scotland was chiefly due to the oppressive rent policy of the Highland proprietors and intermediary of the region extending from Ayr County to the Shetland Islands.

Nearly five hundred names are in the list from Scotland. There are nearly one hundred family groups. The males exceed the females with a ratio of about two to three. The average age is 25 years. The majority consist of laborers from the Highland counties of Argyle, Sutherland, and Caithness. Low wages, high rents, low prices of cattle, high prices of bread due to distilling, the conversion of farmlands into sheep pastures, and the exactions of landlords at home, added to the reputation of Carolina for high wages, cheap land, and plentiful provisions, account largely for the emigration.

Excerpts:

R.E. Phillips to John Robinson

Sir,

In obedience to your Letter of the 8th, of December 1773, I am directed to enclose to You, Lists of Persons, who have taken their Passage from the Ports of Glasgow and Kirkcaldy, for North America on board the Ship Commerce and Jamaica Packet, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

Custom House Edinburgh

20th, June 1775

R.E. Phillips

Port Kirkcaldy An Account of Emigration from this Port and precinct to America and other Foreign Ports from the 5th, of June 1775, to the 11th, d^o, both inclusive. Emigrants on the the Jamaica Packet of Burntisland Thomas Smith master for Brunswick North Carolina.

Miss Elizabeth Mills & her servant are going to reside in So. Carolina from Dundee.

John Drummond & John Marshall coopers from Leith, goes out because they get better wages than in their own Country.

John Douglas Labourer from Dundee goes out for the above occasion John Mills and Thomas Hill Joiners from D^o, go to settle in So, Carolina.

Andrew Williamson, James Jamison & William Mitchell Farmers and Fisherman from Schetland with tier Wives & seven Children.

Farmers and Fisherman go abroad because Landholders in Shetland have raised their rents so high that they could not live without sinking the little matter they have left. Total 90 Passengers."

Rebecca Chase Dobias, Sec/Registrar CLSI

HEBRIDES AND THE REST OF THE "NEIGHBORHOOD"...NOT SO BLEAK

National Geographic Magazine's January 2010 issue has an excellent article on the Hebrides and outlying islands of Scotland's northwest coast. Authored by Lynne Warren and illustrated by the evocative photography of Jim Richardson, it's a step into a simpler, fiercely independent way of life and unspoiled land with swirling mists, towering black cliffs, magical stone formations and resilient, hearty flora and fauna of wild and windswept places. The geography is greatly varied for such a relatively small area of the globe, and the history of the people who inhabit it is fascinating. Vikings, native Picts, missionaries, explorers and traders all have left a mark on these outer regions.

Ms. Warren interviewed some of the islanders still living in these remote parts to discover why some leave and others choose to cling tenaciously to their off-shore roots in what, to many, might seem a bleak, gloomy and even inhospitable environment. The photos by Jim Richardson tell another story, however: rather than "bleak", the islands are at times foreboding, majestic, mysterious, mystical and even alien with their different terrains, but always starkly beautiful.

The story line is well done, but the photos will transport you. It's well worth digging this copy out of the "recent back issues" area in your local library.

Samantha Gray, Chaplain

BEWARE OF THE "GREEN PARROT"

As the Scottish Festival season approaches, I want to warn our members to beware of the "Green Parrot." No, not really a parrot, but the green-rendition of our clan crest badge with a green-colored griffin (also spelled gryphon).

The Lord Lyon King of Arms is the final authority on Scottish heraldry. The approved Clan Leslie crest badge is with a "demi griffin Proper, beaked, armed and winged Or." Of course a griffin is a mythical animal with the head, talons and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. A demi griffin is a "half" griffin (demi), and "Proper" means the natural color for the body. A natural color for a lion would be tawny, or a yellowish tan or light brown color. The beak, talons and wings "Or" would be gold colored.

Unfortunately, some vendors at Scottish festivals are selling our clan crest badge with the griffin colored green like a parrot. I would encourage you to avoid such trinkets and only patronize those vendors offering an accurate rendition of our clan crest badge.

David Leslie White

TO THE EDITOR

Just a note... in the last Grip Fast, page 10 was credited to Elsie Ferguson... should be Elsie Montgomery. I've been called worse, Smiles,

Elsie Montgomery

FROM THE EDITOR

Sorry Elsie. That's what I get for adding information after my proof reader (wife Sue) has made corrections.

William Leslie, Editor

ROGER McCULLOH LESLIE, SANTA ROSA CALIFORNIA



Roger McCulloh Leslie, passed away on Wednesday July 1, 2009 in Santa Rosa. Dearly beloved husband of 67 years of Doris Leslie of Santa Rosa. Roger was born on September 14, 1919 in Garden City, Missouri, the only son of Shannan and Bessie Leslie. He came to California in 1940 to work in the aircraft industry building bombers. Roger and Doris returned to Missouri and farmed until 1955, returning to California where he worked in insurance and real estate, and later retired from the Blood Bank of the Redwood. Roger enjoyed singing and was a member of the choir and an Elder at Westview Christian Church. His love of travel took them all over the world. He was a 50 year member of the A.F. &M. Mt Jackson Lodge in Guerneville and also in Garden City, MO; Eastern Star in MO, Scottish Rite KCCH, Clan Leslie Society, and a charter member of the local Barber Shop. A Celebration of Life was held on August 2, 2009.

SEARCHING FOR ANCESTORS AND LONG LOST FAMILY.

As a dedicated internet user since the 1990's, I have a rule when I go searching for information. If someplace offers information to me for a price, I immediately search to see if I can get it without charge. This is especially true of family search information. You can go immediately to Scotland's People <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> or Ancestry.com www.ancestry.com and start your search, for a fee. These are excellent sources of information and if you are good at searching you will get your money's worth. However, I have spent many hours recently, searching for various ancestors on various sides of our family. I have found that many government sites have become very easy places to search and best of all they don't charge you anything. These sites are a good place to follow up on vague clues of ancestors for which you do not have sufficient information. Once you have a good idea of what you are looking for, it might pay to go to Scotland's People or Ancestry.Com.

Here are few no charge sites. Censuses in UK, FreeSEN <http://freecen.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl> Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html> Indices to Canadian Censuses <http://automatedgenealogy.com/> Canadian Genealogy records Online <http://www.genealogysearch.org/canada/> Genforum, fill in a name like Abernathy, Leslie, Carney, Moore and find hundreds of people with whom to communicate <http://genforum.genealogy.com/leslie/>

These hints are for those who are wondering where to start. Please let me know of your success with these ideas and send any good sites you have so we can share them with other ancestor hunters.

William Leslie, Editor

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – SCHOLARSHIPS

CLSI is offering scholarships to our members. We have two different types of scholarships. One is an academic scholarship valued at \$250. The deadline for the next scholarship is November 30 with the award of one scholarship being made on January 15. The second type of scholarship is for Scottish or Celtic Programs. The amount of this scholarship is \$200 and can be applied for any time. It will cover things such as bagpiping camp, dance, the arts, etc. The person applying for all scholarships must be a member or inceptor member of CLSI. For more information contact a member of the scholarship committee: **Paul Aulbach** pablosquarter@aol.com, **Becky Dobias** dobiasrsc@aol.com, or **Linda Flowers** lflowjingo@sbcglobal.net.

NEXT GRIP FAST ONLINE - MARCH

Please send us your stories. We are recording your history and we cannot do it without your input. Please send us stories and pictures of your Scottish ancestors or your North American family, we really need them. Note the number of different clan members who have contributed to this issue.

William Leslie, Editor william.leslie@sympatico.ca

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2009 – 2010 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL				
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Clan Leslie Society International 2010 Biennial Gathering

Rural Hill Festival & Loch Norman Highland Games
 Huntersville, North Carolina April 16-18, 2010



Gathering Reservations

Questions? If you have questions, please email Paul Aulbach at paul.aulbach@yahoo.com

Please complete and mail this form with your payment to:

Linda Flowers, CLSI Treasurer, 302 SW 3rd, Tuttle, OK 73089

Names - (please print names as you wish them to appear on the name tags)

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | T-Shirt Size | <input type="checkbox"/> M | <input type="checkbox"/> L | <input type="checkbox"/> XL | <input type="checkbox"/> XXL |
| 2. _____ | T-Shirt Size | <input type="checkbox"/> M | <input type="checkbox"/> L | <input type="checkbox"/> XL | <input type="checkbox"/> XXL |
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Address Information

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Phone Number _____ Email _____

Sign Up For:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Night Reception | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Highland Games Wrist Band | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Night Award Dinner | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Highland Games Wrist Band | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLSI 2010 Gathering T-Shirt | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 CLSI Gathering Package Deal (Saves 10%) | \$100.00 |
| Total | \$ _____ |

Payment Options:

1. Cash/Money Order
2. Check in US funds made out to CLSI
3. Pay by PayPal to LFLOWERS1954@yahoo.com
4. Pay by Visa, Master Card or Discover

Charge my: Visa Master Card Discover

Cardholder Name (as it appears on card) _____

Signature _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Amount to be Charged \$ _____ Three Digit Security Code (on the back of your card) _____

Banquet Entrée

Please indicate your choice of menu options for the banquet on Saturday night.

Please select one salad, entree, potato and dessert per person.

SALADS

- (No.) _____ Mixed Green Salad
 (No.) _____ Caesar Salad
 (No.) _____ BLT Salad

ENTREES

- (No.) _____ Cilantro Grilled Chicken
 (No.) _____ 12oz Grilled Sirloin
 (No.) _____ 10oz Prime Rib
 (No.) _____ Grilled Salmon

DESSERT

- (No.) _____ Creme Brulee Cheesecake
 (No.) _____ Key Lime Pie
 (No.) _____ Big Daddy Chocolate Cake

POTATO

- (No.) _____ Parmesan Mashed Potatoes
 (No.) _____ Baked Potato

JOIN A HISTORY MAKING EVENT, THE 2010 CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL GATHERING Rural Hill Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, April 16, 17 and 18, 2010 in Huntersville (Charlotte), North Carolina. Above prices include two day admission to the, Games, Reception, Banquet and souvenir T shirt.